

**NEWS FROM DEPUTY PRESIDING OFFICER**

# **ROB CALARCO**



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## ***“Clean Lakes in Patchogue” Project Approved***

*Partnership Formed to Install Aerators in Patchogue Lake*

**PATCHOGUE, N.Y.** – Deputy Presiding Officer Rob Calarco announced a major water quality initiative and partnership with local governments and St. Joseph’s College. The project, titled “Clean Lakes in Patchogue,” was awarded a \$49,781 at the October 5<sup>th</sup> General Session of the Legislature. It was one of four Suffolk County Water Quality Protection and Restoration Program grants awarded to the Patchogue and East Patchogue area.

Faculty and students at St. Joseph’s College began studying the stagnating lake in 2012. Led by Dr. Mohammed Afzal Rana, students have studied the degradation of water quality and led several lake “clean up” projects, removing debris ever year. The “Clean Lakes” project, sponsored by Suffolk County, the Town of Brookhaven and Patchogue Village, will install an aeration system in Patchogue Lake. The lake is part of an extensive river system that extends as far north as Canaan Lake and drains into the Great South Bay and is jointly owned by Patchogue Village and the Town of Brookhaven.

“These aerators will not only improve water quality in Patchogue Lake, but will improve the overall health of the bay,” stated Deputy Presiding Officer Rob Calarco. “I am grateful to my partners in government, Dr. Rana, and the entire St. Joseph’s College community for their research and commitment.”

“Patchogue is a waterfront community and we are committed to improving water quality throughout our region,” stated Patchogue Village Mayor Paul Pontieri. “I thank our partners in the County and the Town for working with us to make sure this project moves forward. Most of all I thank Dr. Rana and the St. Joseph’s College students for being the leaders of such an important project.”

“The water quality of Patchogue Lake is at a critical state right now and something needs to be done,” stated Brookhaven Town Councilman Neil Foley. “I’m happy to partner with the County, Village and St. Joseph’s College as part of the Clean Lakes in Patchogue project. By installing the aerators and administering regular clean ups, we can restore this beautiful habitat for the fish and wildlife that live there, and preserve it so people can enjoy it for years to come.”

The installation of the aerators is expected to start in the spring of 2017.

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*From left to right: Carrie Bhada, SJC Vice President for Institutional Advancement, Amy Engel, SJC Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations, Joseph Keyes, Patchogue Village Trustee, Dr. Muhammed Afzal Rana, SJC Professor of Biology, Margaret Liendo, SJC junior, Paul Pontieri, Patchogue Village Mayor, Rob Calarco Deputy Presiding Officer.*

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*Deputy Presiding Officer Rob Calarco represents the 7th Legislative District which includes Patchogue, East Patchogue, North Patchogue, Medford and Gordon Heights. Smaller portions of Blue Point, Bellport, Middle Island Fire Island are also included in the District. He is Chairman of the Government Operations, Personnel, Housing & Consumer Protection Committee, Vice Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, as well as a member of the Health, Ways & Means, Education and Human Services, and Public Safety Committees of the Suffolk County Legislature.*